

SAVING PAPAKURA



Mayor Calum Penrose

Papakura faces its most important challenge in many years.

The Government has set up a Royal Commission of Inquiry to look at out the best way of governing the Auckland region. The commission will look at the regional economy and how Auckland works now; at how we provide for essential services and how this could be improved; and at issues that may be hampering the region's growth.

While many agree there is a need to improve regional governance, the proposed changes could result in Papakura being absorbed into a larger council.

If this happens, key decisions that affect Papakura will be made in other parts of Auckland. Local

people will not have the same influence as they do now. Priorities set by a bigger council won't put Papakura first.

While some region-wide infrastructure services could be better managed on a regional basis, Papakura District Council does not believe amalgamation would deliver lower rates or improved services to the people of Papakura.

The Council's own submission to the Royal Commission makes the following key points:

- Most local decisions are best made at a local level. This is the most effective, efficient way to get things done.
- Some services such as network infrastructure provision - transport and water - are best delivered regionally.
- Papakura is an efficient provider of cost-effective local infrastructure and services and we outperform other Auckland Councils in this regard.
- We have the lowest rates and some of the lowest debt per head in the Auckland region.
- Compared to other Councils we run a very lean organisation.

Any amalgamation would destroy these advantages.

The people of this district have a critical role to play in helping to

preserve the identity, autonomy and character of the district. We all need to think about how we want Papakura managed in the future.

Between now and April 22, you have a unique chance to have your say on this critical issue. The Royal Commission is calling for submissions from all residents of the greater Auckland region.

This is without doubt the most important issue facing Papakura.

Papakura has launched a public campaign to state our case for remaining independent of larger local government organisations and to encourage local people to get involved.

The first phase of the campaign is a web site, www.savepapakura.co.nz which argues the case for continued independence, explains the Council's position on the issue and features a weblog or "blog" that gives local people the opportunity to join the debate.

For those without access to the internet, there are free computers linked directly to the web site available at the Council offices and at the Sir Edmund Hillary Library. Council members will also be out and about over coming weeks talking to people about the issue.

Mayor Calum Penrose says the continued existence of Papakura as an independent district was hard-won and is worth fighting for. The Council's own submission will

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▶ state our case to retain our independence, but can only have impact if it is supported by separate submissions from concerned Papakura residents.

“The outcome of the Royal Commission could have a huge impact on our community so it’s important that people have the opportunity to get involved and express their views. We passionately support local democracy and I encourage all of our residents to take part in the submission process.”

You can find out more at the web site or by dropping in to the Council offices at 35 Coles Crescent or the Sir Edmund Hillary Library at Accent Point, where information will be available in hard copy. The Commission’s own information booklets are also available at the Council and the Library.

This special issue of District News includes information about the Commission, how to make your submission, and a reminder of some of the things that make us special and unique in the Auckland region.

Why I love Papakura

Our district offers a mix of urban and rural lifestyles. We are close to everything Auckland offers, yet we retain our sense of community.

Papakura is self contained and has everything that a family needs to grow and thrive: employment, good schools, retail, opportunities for sports and recreation. Our people have ready access to their elected representatives.

Peter Goldsmith, Deputy Mayor

This district has long been a place for those who value lifestyle and opportunity. We are known through the region for our sense of identity and community.

We have abundant green space, many of our parks are lined with beautiful mature exotic and native trees; our infrastructure is being developed to meet the needs of our current population and the growth expected in coming decades; as a Council we are planning wisely for the future, establishing infrastructure and facilities that will maintain this district’s reputation as a wonderful place to live.

Councillor Peter Jones

Because we have the best of town and country. We have a vital and dynamic town centre, superior sporting facilities and our community is rich in arts and culture. We have excellent infrastructure. Most of all we have a stable and caring community made up of exceptional people.

Councillor Katrina Piggott



Deciding our future

The Royal Commission on Auckland Governance will examine and report on the future management of the Auckland Region.

It will review regional decision-making and recommend a system designed to meet residents’ needs and secure Auckland’s future as an internationally competitive city and region.

The Commission has wide powers to identify what local and regional governance arrangements will best provide for current and future needs. Making a submission is easy:

In hard copy:

- call in to the Council offices at 35 Coles Crescent or the Sir Edmund Hillary Library and pick up a submission form

Using the internet:

- Visit www.royalcommission.govt.nz
- Click on Making a Submission in the left hand menu
- Use the online submission form, or
- Download a PDF file of the submission form

In either case:

- Say whether or not you are happy with the management of the Auckland region
- Identify any changes you would make to Auckland’s current management

Information to help you make a submission is also at www.savepapakura.co.nz Hard copy submissions can be mailed to:

Freepost No 215482

Royal Commission on Auckland Governance

Private Bag 92049

Auckland Mail Centre

AUCKLAND 1142

The deadline for submissions is 4.00pm on 22nd April 2008. Public hearings will be held throughout the region in May and June, and the Royal Commission will report back to the Government by 1 December 2008.

What makes us so special?

Our status as a district is hard-won, our right to decide our own affairs a valued one. More than any other part of the Auckland region, Papakura has a strong sense of community and identity.

These are just some of the things that make us special and unique in the region:

- The Papakura district covers 123 square kilometres
- Papakura is the gateway to the Auckland region. The North Island main trunk railway line and both major north-south road routes pass through the district.
- Ardmore airport is the busiest in New Zealand, home to flying schools, private aircraft operated by businesses and individuals, the classic War Birds and some of the most innovative aviation businesses in the country
- We are home to a diverse blend of small, medium and large businesses, including quarrying, dairy processing, horticulture, manufacturing, engineering

Did you know?

- More than a quarter of all people in Papakura are under the age of 15

- 61 per cent of Papakura's population identify themselves as European
- 26.5 per cent identify themselves as Maori
- Less than four per cent are unemployed
- There are 43 public pre-school and early childhood centres in Papakura
- There are 22 primary, intermediate and secondary schools and one composite school
- More than 26 per cent of Papakura's population has a tertiary education
- The population of Papakura is expected to double in the next 50 years
- Papakura became a district in its own right in 1989, when the Papakura City Council was amalgamated with parts of Manukau City Council and Franklin County Council to create Papakura District Council

Have your say

Consultation is now open on Papakura's Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009 and LTCCP Amendment

The Annual Plan sets out Council's proposed work in the coming year, and focuses on how we provide essential services and plan for growth in the district.

This is year three of Progress Papakura, the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan. This annual plan will be the last one produced before a full review of the LTCCP in 2009.

There have been some changes to projects since the introduction of the LTCCP mainly to reflect the status of these projects in the current year (2007/2008) and the ability to deliver current and proposed programmes. Amendments have also been proposed to two Council policies contained within the LTCCP.

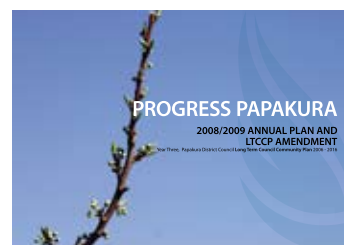
The Council has carefully considered the proposed work programme for the current year and has managed to hold the increase in rates to 7.8% compared to 2007/2008.

Six per cent is due to new infrastructure - a mixture of depreciation costs and servicing loans. The resource consent application for tidal gates on the Pahurehure Inlet and removal of mature mangroves from the inlet have also added around one per cent to the rates required.

The draft 2008/2009 Annual Plan and LTCCP Amendment were published in summary form in the Papakura Courier; they are available at the Council offices, 35 Coles Crescent and at the Sir Edmund Hillary Library and also on the Council web site, www.papakura.govt.nz.

Submissions can be made online by using the submissions form, or also on paper. Hard copy submissions can be mailed to the Council at:

Freepost 202637
2008-2009 Draft Annual Plan/LTCCP Amendment
Papakura District Council
Private Bag 7



Work programme update

This column sets out Papakura District Council's major roading, water and other work - recently completed, in progress and planned. A regular feature of District News, it helps keep the residents of Papakura up to date with what the Council is doing.

Parks and recreation work completed in February and March

- Village Green upgrade
- Upgrade of garden beds in Central Park
- Minor improvement of Longford Park Esplanade

Parks and recreation work currently underway

- Upgrades at Don Street Housing for the Elderly
- New park signs design and construction
- Hingaia Stream bank stabilisation
- Autumn sports field renovations
- Coastal planting programme at Walter Stevens Esplanade and Youngs Beach Park
- Juvenile mangrove removal

Parks and recreation work programmed for April and May

- CCTV trial in Central Park
- Children's Forest planting
- Upgrade of Pukeroa Playground
- New Village Green toilets
- Street tree planting on Great South Road, Takanini

Roading work completed in March

- Footpath renewals: 100 metres
- New footpath: 600 metres
- Road resealing works: 7000 metres
- Rosehill Drive road surface rehabilitation works

Roading work currently under way

- Ron Keat Drive pedestrian improvement works
- Papakura Mainstreet upgrade
- Bridge strengthening works

Roading work programmed for April and May

- Papakura Clevedon Rd road surface rehabilitation works
- Footpath renewals: 200 metres
- Annual road re-marking
- Cul-de-sac "turning - heads" improvement works

Stormwater works completed in February and March

- Intersection of Great South Road and O'Shannessey Street
- Pipe upgrade in Fitzgerald Road

Stormwater work currently under way

- Pipe upgrade in Arimu Road
- Open drain bank restoration in Bremner Road
- Pipe upgrade in Scott Road and George Street
- Completion of pipe works in central business area

Stormwater work programmed for April and May

- Pipe upgrade in Halberg Road
- Pipe upgrade in the corner of Nelson and East Streets
- Pipe upgrade in Tairere Crescent
- Pipe upgrade in Snell Avenue
- Street cesspits upgrade in Old Wairoa Road, Ingram Street, and Pricor Street
- Stormwater works in Redhill Road
- Open channel improvement in Tironui Station Road East
- Debris trap for creek in Flanagan Road

PHOTO GALLERY

Mayoral Bike Challenge



Cycle Safety Carnival, Massey Park



Opaheke Walking School Bus



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